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Claims:

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1. \ A cordless telephone, comprising:

a base unit; and

a handset, the handset including

4 \ a keypad,

key scan element adapted to scan the keypad for a predetermined key

6 sequence, and

a controller adapted to cause the initiation of an outgoing call based on a

8 determination of the predetermined key sequence.

2. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the outgoing call is initiated to a telephone number corresponding to the predetermined key sequence.

- 1 3. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the predetermined key
- 2 sequence is 9-1-1.
- 1 4. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the base unit is adapted to
- establish a link with a network based on a signal from the controller in the handset, to
- sense a dial tone, and to output dual tone multifrequency signals corresponding to a
- 4 number to be dialed to the network.
 - 5. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 4, wherein the network is a public
- 2 switched telephone network.



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6. A handset for a cordless telephone, comprising:

a keypad,

a key scan element adapted to scan the keypad for a predetermined key

sequence, and

a controller adapted to cause the initiation of an outgoing call based on a

6 determination of the predetermined key sequence.

7. A handset as recited in claim 6, wherein the controller is adapted to output a

signal to a corresponding base unit based on the determination of the predetermined key

3 sequence.

8. A handset as recited in claim 7, further comprising an RF transceiver, wherein the signal is output to the base unit via the RF transceiver.

9. A handset as recited in claim 7, wherein the signal informs the base unit that the

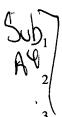
2 predetermined key sequence has been detected.

1 10. A handset as recited in claim 7, wherein the signal comprises a dialing sequence

of a number to be dialed.



11. A handset as recited in claim 10, wherein the dialing sequence corresponds to the predetermined key sequence.



12. A method of placing a telephone call from a cordless telephone handset that is in an on-hook condition, comprising the steps of:

sensing the activation of a predetermined key sequence; and

initiating a telephone call based on the sensed activation.



13. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the telephone call is to a telephone number corresponding to the predetermined key sequence.

- 1 14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the predetermined key sequence is 9-1-
- 2 1.
- 1 15. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the initiating step includes sending a
- 2 signal to a corresponding base unit.
- 1 16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the signal indicates detection of the
- 2 predetermined key sequence.
- 1 17. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the signal includes a dialing sequence.
- 1 18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the dialing sequence corresponds to the
- 2 predetermined key sequence.
- 1 19. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the signal is sent via an RF link.